## PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

application of

Docket No: Q74306

Jean-Claude HAUER, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/684,464

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Filed: October 15, 2003

For:

**CLOSING DEVICE** 

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/684,464

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for

foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a

foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an

English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication

indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 46.027

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 8, 2003

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO					Complete if Known		
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<u>.</u>					Art Unit	Not Yet Known	
	25/				Examiner Name	Not Yet Known	
Te.	RADOURNE	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q74306	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner	Cite No.1	Document	Number	Dublication Date			
Initials*		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		
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Initials*		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		EP	0 391 825	A1	03/21/1990	Pont-A-Mousson S.A.	
		PCT	WO 00/11272		03/02/2000	Shim	
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.			
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Examiner Signatur	e l		Date Considered	
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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.